Unity in Motion: The 6th Run Internacional - The U.S. - Mexico 10K Bridges Two Nations

The 6th Run Internacional – The U.S.-Mexico 10K, an event symbolizing international harmony and cultural unity, successfully brought together almost 2,000 participants this past weekend. Presented by the El Paso Community Foundation (EPCF), the race uniquely spanned the vibrant cities of El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.

Commencing in the heart of downtown El Paso, the course offered runners a panoramic view of urban life and culture. From the starting line, participants embarked on a journey that not only tested their physical endurance but also connected them with the rich history and community spirit of the border region. The race course strategically crossed into Ciudad Juárez via the Stanton Street International Bridge, allowing participants to experience the seamless bond between the two cities.

This unique 10K transcended physical boundaries, weaving its way through significant landmarks that narrate stories of a shared past. As runners passed through historic downtown areas, they encountered a tapestry of cultural landmarks, including the bustling streets of El Paso, the iconic the Old Customs House, where the first U.S.-Mexico presidential meeting took place between William H. Taft and Porfirio Díaz in 1909 (it now houses MUREF), the Mexican Revolution Museum, and various historic sites that echo the binational heritage.

The climax of the race was as symbolic as it was challenging – the finish line was positioned at the peak of the Paso del Norte International Bridge, precisely at the international boundary line. This choice of location for the finish line was a powerful statement, symbolizing the unity and interconnectedness of the U.S. and Mexico. It served as a vivid reminder that borders can be places of meeting and exchange, not just division.

Organized with meticulous care by the El Paso Community Foundation, and supported by volunteers, sponsors, and institutional backers from both sides of the border, the race was a celebration of endurance, friendship, and international goodwill. Mario Porras, Vice President of International Affairs, and Stephanie Acosta, Program Officer, played pivotal roles in orchestrating this event, earning heartfelt gratitude from the community. EPCF specially wishes to thank U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Municipio de Ciudad Juarez, City of El Paso, Agencia Nacional de Aduanas de Mexico, the Mexico Consulate in El Paso, the U.S. Consulate in Juarez, Fideicomiso de Puentes Fronterizos, Maraton de Juarez, Downtown Management District, Cehlider, and all the sponsors that helped make this event possible.

Participants hailed from over 75 cities from the U.S., Mexico and Canada, exemplifying the diversity and unity that the race celebrated. First place winners were Jesus Francisco Corona Montoya and Amy Machen, who led the pack with commendable times.

The event concluded with a vibrant post-race celebration on both sides of the border, marked by music, dance, and an award ceremony that honored the top finishers and every 100th runner up to the 1,000th position. It was a fitting end to a race that was more than a competition – it was a demonstration of the spirit of "running as one".

As participants and spectators departed, they carried with them the spirit of the event – a reminder that in the heart of the U.S.-Mexico border, there lies not just a line that divides but a bridge that unites.